

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
or Suspension of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Charles H. Long, Jr.)
)
Certificate 106845)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 13, 2008. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) requested that the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Charles H. Long, Jr., certificate 106845, as a result of his arrest in Charleston County on January 11, 2008, on one count of Committing a Lewd Act Upon a Minor, a Class D felony offense. The Department has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Long may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students and others and that emergency action by the State Board is required. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Mr. Long's certificate until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department is directed to serve notice on Mr. Long of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Long holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has thirty four years of teaching experience. Mr. Long has been employed by the Charleston County School District (District) since 1983 and has been teaching reading, math, and science at James Island Middle School. On January 11, 2008, Mr. Long was arrested in Charleston County and charged with one count of


Committing a Lewd Act on a Minor. The District has placed Mr. Long on administrative leave from his teaching position at James Island Middle School. The State Board finds that the serious nature of these allegations against Mr. Long poses a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required to summarily suspend Mr. Long's educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, crime against the law of this State or the United States and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Charles H. Long, Jr. may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under his instruction that requires emergency action by the State Board. Accordingly, the State Board summarily suspends Mr. Long's educator certificate until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:



Al Simpson, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 13, 2008